

Lesson 6

Apostles Defend Their Faith

Acts 5:12-42

**Bible Point:**

Tell others about Jesus.


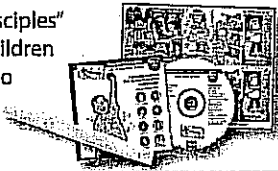

Key Verse:

Prayer is powerful (adapted from James 5:16b).

Weaving Faith Into Life:

Children will tell others about Jesus.

Lesson Sequence	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Teacher Pack Supplies
1 Getting Started about 10 min.	Welcoming Song Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player	CD: "Welcome to God's House" (track 7)
2 FaithWeaver Key Verse Activity about 10 min.	Powerful Prayer Consider the power of prayer.	Bible	
3 Bible Story Exploration about 20 min.	Theo's News Find out what a card or letter has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Story Surprise Box, Theo puppet, card, envelope	CD: "Here, Theo" (track 3)
	Story Time Pretend to be the apostles and tell others about Jesus.	Bible, CD player, balloons	CD: "Tell About Jesus" (track 13)

Lesson Sequence	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Teacher Pack Supplies
 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i>	Center 1: Phone a Friend About Jesus Create a make-believe cell phone, and tell class friends about Jesus.	Lesson 6 from My Bible Playground, alphabet pasta, plate, glue, scissors, pencils	
	Center 2: Sweet Angels Make a sweet angel-shaped snack to use in retelling the Bible story.	1 sugar cone and 1 large marshmallow per child	
	Center 3: Communicating for Jesus Use blocks to make communication devices, and tell others about Jesus.	Connecting blocks	
	Center 4: Little Disciples Hear a rhyme, and use figures of children to tell a story.	CD player, felt	CD: "Little Disciples" (track 14), Children Figures, Velcro 
 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Be a FaithWeaver Choose a challenge for the coming week.		
	"Use Me, God" Prayer Say a prayer with motions about sharing Jesus with others.		

Apostles Defend Their Faith

Acts 5:12-42

Jesus' resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit changed a band of confused, fearful followers into bold proclaimers of the message of Christ. They were not only bold, but they were also filled with God's power. Peter's shadow falling on someone in need brought healing! However, the praise this power and boldness brought to the name of Jesus did not please the religious leaders.

As described in Acts 4, Peter and John had been brought before the Sanhedrin for questioning and told to stop teaching in the name of Jesus. Frustrated but finding no reason to punish them, the Sanhedrin had to let them go. Now, after performing more miraculous signs and arousing more excitement among the people, all of the apostles were brought in and locked up overnight. The Sanhedrin likely intended to punish them the next day. However, the next morning, the doors and gates to the cell were still securely locked, but the prisoners were gone. Rather than accept the supernatural release of the apostles, the authorities apparently concluded that someone in the Temple police was a sympathizer and had freed the prisoners.

When the apostles were approached in the Temple court again, no force was used to bring them back to the meeting of the Sanhedrin. Had the apostles wanted to resist, the support of the crowd would have made it difficult for the religious leaders to bring them in. But the apostles didn't resist.

Notice that the high priest didn't say a word about the apostles' escape from jail. He didn't want to hear how they had been freed. He did, however, chastise them for having disobeyed the orders of the Sanhedrin. He didn't even want to utter the name of Jesus. Perhaps the high priest was afraid that the apostles would make him and the Sanhedrin look guilty for the death of Jesus. His guilt was haunting him, and he was becoming paranoid about the disciples' motives.

Peter, responding for all the apostles, was very clear. Members of the Sanhedrin couldn't disagree with the principle; they just disagreed over what it meant to obey God. Mistaken as they were, they thought they were obeying God.

Gamaliel's response to the Sanhedrin was wise. After reminding the Sanhedrin of two people who had commanded followings and later faded away, he advised the Sanhedrin to leave the apostles alone. He said that if what the apostles were doing was simply self-manufactured it would go nowhere, but if it was of God, even the Sanhedrin wouldn't be able to stop it.

Gamaliel's speech was effective. The Sanhedrin had the apostles flogged and let them go. The result? Day after day the apostles never stopped teaching about Jesus.

Devotion for Teachers

The Holy Spirit is sometimes described as a "deposit" assuring that God will make good on his promises of what is yet to come. The Holy Spirit guides, convicts, and inspires us as we grow in our relationship with Jesus.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Take a deep breath. What is this force that makes you alive, animating your body and giving you your very essence? Your spirit. This separates you from the dead. God has given his own Spirit to live in you, making you alive, animating your soul, giving you his very essence. Be fully alive!

Understanding Ages 5 & 6 for Teachers

Your children will easily understand the concept of telling others about Jesus. Five- and six-year-olds are aware of many different ways we communicate. They may have spoken with others; talked on the phone; sent or received a postcard or letter; or, with the help of an adult, e-mailed or texted a friend or relative. Help your children understand that our actions also tell others about Jesus. The way we act, particularly when things don't go the way we expect them to, shows people how much we care about loving others and being like Jesus.

Easy Prep for Teachers

Music—Place the *FaithWeaver Pre-K & K/Ages 5 & 6, Spring 2013* CD in your CD player.

Theo's News—Put a card or letter in an envelope, and place the envelope inside your Story Surprise Box. Hide the box where it's easily accessible. (If you need to make a Story Surprise Box, see page 10.)

Center 1: Phone a Friend About Jesus—Remove the Lesson 6 pages from My Bible Playground. Set out alphabet pasta in a shallow plate, liquid glue, scissors, and pencils.

Center 4: Little Disciples—Remove the Children Figures and the self-stick Velcro from the Teacher Pack. Pull apart the 10 cards, cut the strip of Velcro into 10 half-inch pieces, and attach a piece of Velcro to the back of each figure. Set out two large pieces of felt (9x12-inch), and have kids work in two groups of five children each.

1 Getting Started

Welcoming Song

As the children arrive, greet each one warmly and welcome him or her with a smile. Remind children of their Daily Challenges, and have them find a friend to share how they followed through. When it's time to begin, use your classroom signal to gather the children in a circle. (See page 9 for more about classroom signals.)

Have children sing "Welcome to God's House" to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean." Encourage the kids to join you in doing the motions.

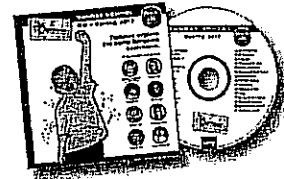


Track 7

With arms open wide, Jesus greets you. (*Spread arms out.*)
He's so glad to see you today. (*Shake a neighbor's hand.*)
Say "hi" to a friend right beside you. (*Continue shaking hands.*)
Let's learn and let's sing and let's pray. (*Turn around once.*)

Come on in (*motion to come*),
Have a seat (*sit down*),
Welcome to God's house today.
Come on in (*motion to come*),
Have a seat (*sit down*),
Welcome to God's house today!

(Repeat.)

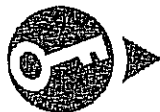




FaithWeaver Key Verse Activity

Powerful Prayer

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to James 5:16, and show the children the words.



Say Our Key Verse from the Bible is found in James 5:16. It says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." This means that prayer is powerful. Lead children in saying the adapted version of the Key Verse together: **Prayer is powerful.**

Help children think of powerful people. This might include people who are physically strong, as well as authority figures.

Ask

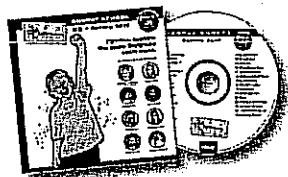
- What do these people have the power to do? (Lift heavy things; tell people what to do.)
- Even though these people have power, what are things they can't do? (They can't heal people; they can't answer prayer.)

Say The Bible tells us that prayer is powerful. This means that when we talk to God, God listens and hears us. Then God decides how to answer our prayers.

Ask

- Do you have to have strong muscles to pray? (No.)
- Do you have to be an important person to pray? (No.)
- Tell about a time when God answered your prayer.

Lead children in saying the Key Verse one more time, and then pray together, thanking God for hearing prayers and using them to change lives.



Bible Story Exploration

Theo's News

Say Friends, it's time for Theo's News!

Have the children sit in a circle, and begin "Here, Theo" on your CD. When the CD segment ends, bring out the Story Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.



Track 3

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about our Bible story.

Theo: I found something very interesting! I hid it in the Story Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

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(Choose a child to open the Story Surprise Box, and have kids pass the envelope around the circle. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)

Teacher: Have any of you ever sent a card or letter to someone? Who did you send it to? What did you tell that person?

(Pause as children respond.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide an envelope in our Story Surprise Box?

Theo: You know how we send letters to people to tell them about things that happen? Well, Jesus' disciples didn't have post offices to send letters, but they were still able to tell others about Jesus.

Teacher: Let's find out how they told others about Jesus.

Theo: I have to go now. Have a good time today, boys and girls!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave and say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Story Time

Open your Bible to Acts 5:12-42, and show the children the words.

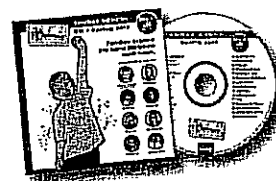
Say Last week we learned that Jesus is alive and that he appeared to Mary. Today's Bible story says we can tell others about Jesus.

Our Bible story today is about Jesus' closest disciples who were called the apostles. The apostles were 12 men who had traveled with Jesus, learned from Jesus, and had known him as their closest friend. We have heard about some of these men, including Peter, James, and John. The apostles told everyone about their friend, Jesus. After Jesus died, came back to life, and went back to heaven, the apostles continued to tell people about Jesus, God's Son.

Let's pretend we're Jesus' best friends, the apostles. Everyone stand up and tell two people something you know about Jesus. Then come back and sit down.

The apostles loved to tell others about Jesus. They told people things like "Jesus loves you," "Jesus can help you," "Jesus can change you if you let him," "Jesus died for you," and "Jesus is alive!" People came from far away to hear the apostles tell about Jesus. And when sick people came to hear about Jesus, God healed them.

One day some bad men in Jerusalem had the apostles arrested and put in jail because the apostles told others about Jesus. But that didn't stop the apostles from loving Jesus and telling others about Jesus.



Extra Impact

Tell the families of your children about Jesus. Inflate a balloon, but pinch the opening closed rather than tying a knot. Write a message of affirmation or encouragement on it. When the ink is dry, let the air out of the balloon.

Make a balloon for each family. Tuck the balloons in envelopes and mail one to each child's family with a note to inflate the balloon to read your words.

Warning

To avoid potential choking hazards, pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly.

Clear a large area in your classroom for this game. Have children form three groups. Tell one group to be the Apostles and stand in a huddle in the middle of the room. Have the second group of kids pretend to be the Jail Guards and stand in a circle around the Apostles. Tell the Jail Guards not to let the Apostles escape. Have the last group of kids pretend to be the Townspeople who want to know about Jesus.

Give the Apostles three to five inflated balloons, and instruct them to hold the balloons until the music starts. Tell kids that the balloons represent words leaving our mouths to tell others about Jesus. As the class sings the song, have the Apostles bop the balloons to the other kids as if they're telling others about Jesus.

Begin the CD and lead the children in singing "Tell About Jesus" to the tune of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."



Track 13

I can tell about Jesus. Yes, I can.

I can tell about Jesus. Yes, I can.

I can tell about Jesus. Yes, I can.

I can tell about him anywhere.

(Repeat 2x.)

When the song ends, stop the CD. Have kids gather in their groups, and then ask the following questions.

- Ask** • Did the apostles stop telling people about Jesus even after they had been put in jail? Why or why not? (No, because they wanted to tell everyone about Jesus no matter what.)
- Who caught the messages (or balloons) and heard about Jesus? (My friends; my teacher.)

Say Even though the bad men thought they could stop the apostles from telling others about Jesus, God had another plan! During the night, God sent an angel to open the jail and set the apostles free without the soldiers seeing them. Let's continue to act out the Bible story.

Have the Apostles and the Townspeople lie down and pretend to sleep. Turn off your classroom lights. Have the Jail Guards continue to stand with their backs to the Apostles and facing the Townspeople. Choose a child to play the part of the Angel, and tell the Guards to pretend they don't see the Angel. Have the Angel quietly wake up the Apostles and lead them out of the jail without the Guards noticing. Instruct the Guards to look the other direction and pretend not to notice. When all the Apostles are out of jail, bring the children together to conclude the Bible story.

- Ask** • Why do you think God wanted the apostles out of jail? (So they could tell more people about Jesus; so they could help people.)

Say When the angel brought the apostles safely out of jail, he told them to go to the Temple courts and continue to tell others about Jesus.

The next day the bad men went to the jail. When they looked inside the jail, they didn't see anyone. The apostles were gone, but the jail was still locked up tight! The men couldn't understand how this had happened! When they heard that the apostles were back in the Temple telling the people about Jesus, they sent the guards after the apostles again. But all the bad men could do was beat the apostles, tell them again to stop talking about Jesus, and then let the apostles go.

Tips From the Trenches

If your classroom becomes too dark for kids to see when the lights are turned off, give a flashlight to the Angel as he or she lets the Apostles out of jail.



Ask • Do you think the apostles stopped telling others about Jesus? Why or why not? (No, because they wanted to tell everyone about Jesus; no, because they knew Jesus wanted them to tell people about him.)

Say The apostles knew that it was more important to obey God and tell others about Jesus than to keep silent. We all know about Jesus today because the apostles chose to obey God and tell others about Jesus.



Ask • What are some ways you can tell others about Jesus this week? Let the children brainstorm ways they've seen or heard others tell about Jesus, such as on TV, on the radio, at church, at a park, or by singing, acting out a Bible story, using a telephone, or sending a card or e-mail message to someone.



Weaving Faith Into Life

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the supplies and put them out of sight until you need them. Allow the children to choose the center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible story by asking them the questions included with each center. (See pages 12, 22, 32, and 43 for ways to organize the centers.)

Center 1: Phone a Friend About Jesus

First have kids write their names on their student pages. Then help each child cut along the sides of the cellular phone cover at the bottom of the page and fold up the flap. Point out the alphabet pasta, let kids search through the pasta to find the letters that spell "Jesus," and have kids glue the letters onto the cell phone's LCD screen. Then encourage kids to play in pairs or trios and pretend to call a friend to tell about Jesus.

Ask • How did the disciples tell others about Jesus? (They used their mouths to tell others about Jesus.)
• What are some things you might tell someone about Jesus? (That Jesus loves them; that Jesus saves us.)

Say The disciples used their mouths to tell others about Jesus. We can use our mouths, use telephones, or tell others about Jesus in many other ways. This week, ask your parents if you can call a friend and tell him or her something you *know* about Jesus.

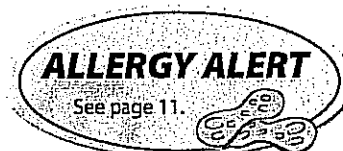


Tips From the Trenches

Alphabet pasta works much better for this type of activity and has a tendency not to break like alphabet cereal does. Although alphabet pasta is smaller, kids still enjoy hunting for the letters in Jesus' name.

Center 2: Sweet Angels

Give each child a sugar cone (with a pointed end) and a large marshmallow. Have children press their marshmallows onto the pointed tips of their cones to make angels. Let children retell the story of the apostles being set free from jail by an angel before they eat their snack.





- Ask** • What do you think the apostles felt like when they saw an angel there to set them free? (They were probably happy; they were probably thankful.)
- The apostles were glad they were free so they could tell others about Jesus. Who is someone you can tell about Jesus? (My neighbor; my teacher.)

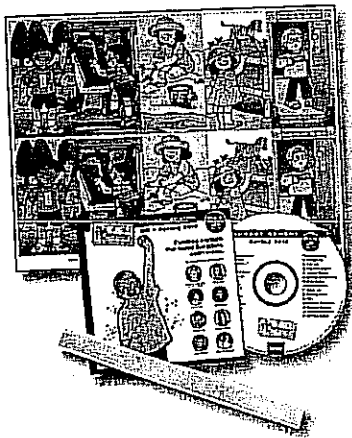
Center 3: Communicating for Jesus



Place small connecting blocks in a manipulative center for children to creatively make communication devices. Encourage the children to make telephones, walkie-talkies, radios, or computers out of the blocks and pretend to tell others about Jesus.



- Ask** • What are some ways we can tell others about Jesus? (We can write a letter; we can go to their house.)
- Have you ever used any of those ways to tell someone about Jesus? Explain. (Yes, once I wrote my grandma a letter about Jesus.)
- Say** There are so many ways we can tell others about Jesus. Think of a way this week to share Jesus with others.



Center 4: Little Disciples

Cue the CD to "Little Disciples," and encourage kids to listen carefully to the rhyme. Have kids place the figures on the felt when the rhyme mentions a particular figure. (Children should start with the figure of the boy with "#1" on his shirt.)



One little disciple meets a friend at the zoo.
He says, "Jesus loves you," and that makes two.
Two little disciples meet a friend at the sea.
They say, "Jesus saves you," and now there are three.
Three little disciples knock on a friend's door.
They shout, "Jesus helps you," and that makes it four.
Four little disciples take a friend for a drive.
They whisper, "Jesus changes you," and now there are five.
Five little disciples meet lots and lots of friends.
They share the love of Jesus, so the story never ends.

- Ask** • What did the children in the rhyme tell their friends? (Jesus helps you; Jesus changes you.)
- How can you be like the children in the rhyme? (I can tell others about Jesus; I can meet lots and lots of friends.)
- How do you feel when you share Jesus with others? (I feel happy; I'm excited to tell others about Jesus.)



Say We can be disciples, too. We can tell others about Jesus.

5 Lasting Impressions

Be a Faith Weaver

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring the class back to the circle area on the floor. Review the lesson and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about the Bible story.

Use this time not only to review the lesson but also to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to each choose one of the Daily Challenges you will provide for applying today's lesson to their lives. Use these challenges for both encouragement and accountability in your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Say Today we learned to tell others about Jesus. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to do to help you remember that God wants us to tell others about Jesus.



Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

- Ask a parent to help you bring your neighbor some cookies, and tell him or her about Jesus.
- Read Acts 5:12-42 with a parent, and discuss ways you can tell others about Jesus.
- Tell a friend who doesn't know Jesus why you believe in Jesus.

Have kids whisper in your ear or tell you which challenge they've chosen. Make sure you choose a challenge as well, and tell the kids. Your commitment will inspire your students and give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Say When we meet again next week, I'll ask how you completed your Daily Challenge and remembered to tell others about Jesus!



"Use Me, God" Prayer

Lead the children in saying the following prayer with motions.

Dear God,
Help me use my eyes to see *(point to eyes)*,
Someone who needs Jesus, just like me. *(Point to someone and then to self.)*
Help me use my mouth to speak *(point to mouth)*,
Words about Jesus; he's so neat! *(Point up to heaven.)*
Help me use my ears to hear *(point to ears)*,
People who need Jesus, far and near. *(Point around in a sweeping motion.)*
Help me, God, to use my hands for good *(hold up hands and wiggle fingers)*,
Showing others about Jesus, just as I should. *(Hold hands out with palms up.)*
In Jesus' name, amen.

At the end of class, remind children to take home the My Bible Playground student pages. (Ideas for creating a take-home center are on page 14.)